

**This fall**, when the leaves are falling, try thinking about those leaves as a mulch for your garden and landscape. Instead of sending the leaves to the landfill, shred them with a lawn

mower or a chipper/shredder. Spread them underneath your trees to form bed areas or use them as mulch in your flower beds. This helps retain moisture in the soil and limits weed growth.

Some people till their shredded leaves into their vegetable gardens to add nutrients and improve how water moves through the soil.

Finally, if you have more leaves than you can spread in your garden, compost the rest. Composting is easy. Simply pile your shredded leaves in an out-of-sight part of your yard or garden. Then let nature do the rest. It may take as long as a year for the leaves to decompose completely, but the results will be excellent organic material to add to your garden areas.

No matter how you recycle your leaves, you're helping your home and community by reducing waste sent to the landfill, improving soil quality and limiting soil erosion.

### Krafty Kids

**Items needed:**

- an empty bottle or jar (rinsed and dried)
- scissors
- tissue paper in different colors
- liquid starch
- a container to hold the starch (like an old margarine tub)
- a paintbrush or old toothbrush

**Directions:**

- 1) Pour the starch into a container.
- 2) Cut or tear tissue paper into small pieces.
- 3) Place a piece of the tissue you cut or tore on the glass bottle and brush liquid starch over it. Do this covered. Overlapping will create a nice effect.
- 4) Let the bottle dry. Use the bottles and jars you decorated as vases, pencil holders, organizers for your desk, candy holders or containers to put your small collectibles in.

**OPTION:** You can use small pictures cut from old magazines instead of the tissue paper.

**Answers to Glass Recycling Quiz:**

Vase, coffee mugs, jewelry, dishes, insulation, drinking glasses, bottles, jars, fiberglass

Thanks for all the great response to our 5th issue of Kansas Kids Can! Here's what you had to say.

## Kansas Kids Say:

### Why Recycling is important to me:

"It helps to save animals."  
Michelle from Olathe

"It helps keep the environment clean, and we use less of our natural resource[s] when we recycle."  
Kayley from Wichita

"We won't have to make and waste a lot of plastic, metal, tires and trees."  
Alexis from Topeka

"[It] helps life's nature."  
Kelly from Belle Plaine

Mrs. Wellman from Belle Plaine Elementary writes us:

"You had an article about recycling tires. Island Park in Winfield, KS recently renovated their play area. They are using shredded tires in their play area. It is really springy and a lot easier to walk on than gravel."



"We keep the city clean."  
Angelica from southwest Kansas

**Reuse your glass containers as a vase, pencil holder, or a container to hold a collection of things like buttons! When you're done reusing your glass container, recycle it!**



**Kansas Kids Can** is published four times a year for 4th grade students throughout the state of Kansas.

Kansas Kids Can is the creation of the *Kansas Don't Spoil It!* Program, a program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. *Kansas Don't Spoil It!* is an awareness and education program created to encourage Kansans to reduce, reuse and recycle waste and keep our state in a beautiful condition. Material in this newsletter is also available on the web at [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com). To order the Kansas Kids Can Newsletter, submit writings or request additional information, write to:



**KDHE**  
Bureau of Waste Management  
Attn: Kansas Kids Can  
1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 320  
Topeka, KS 66612  
kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us

# KANSAS KIDS CAN!

**REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE**  
November 2004, 6th Edition [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com)

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## Kansas Celebrates AMERICA RECYCLES DAY!



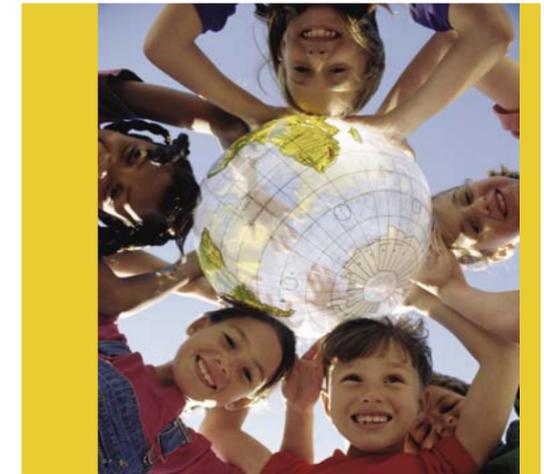
AMERICA RECYCLES 2004

*It All Comes Back To You.*

America Recycles Day is a special day to encourage everyone to recycle and buy products made from recycled material. On November 15th, many Kansans celebrated this event. Here's just a few examples:

- Students at St. George Elementary School held a paper drive to collect 25 tons of newspapers! (This recycled paper can be turned into lots of new paper).
- In Wyandotte County, businesses had a 'Clean Out Your Files Day.' Office workers went through their desks and sent papers they didn't need any more to recycling centers. (You could do this too with the old papers in your school desk – but make sure to ask your Teacher first!)
- In Topeka, several school children held a special recycling celebration at Washburn University.

Send us an e-mail telling us things you did for America Recycles Day — we'll print as many as we can!



### ► Here's what YOU can do!

Recycling helps conserve our natural resources, so why not start a recycling project in your home? Here's how:

- **Get the OK from your parents!** Tell them what you have learned about recycling!
- **Find out where your closest recycling center is** and ask them what materials they take (have your parents or teacher help you call the recycling center or look them up on the Internet by going to [www.kansasbirp.com](http://www.kansasbirp.com)).
- **Find a place in your house where it would be good to set up your recycling center.** It could be in a basement, garage or near the kitchen. The best spot will be one that you can easily use.
- **Set up separate containers for each of your recycled materials.** Cardboard boxes are good for newspapers and old plastic trash containers work well for plastic milk jugs and aluminum cans. Make sure your milk jugs, glass jars, and cans are clean before putting them in your recycling containers.
- **Put on a demonstration for your family on how to properly recycle.** Family members can volunteer for certain jobs like can crushing and placing the old newspaper in the recycling box.
- **Arrange to go to the recycling center often** to drop off your materials.
- **Tell your family about buying recycled products** made from the kinds of materials you collect.
- **Congratulate yourself and family members for doing their part to reduce, reuse and recycle!**



**A KANSAS RECYCLING STORY**

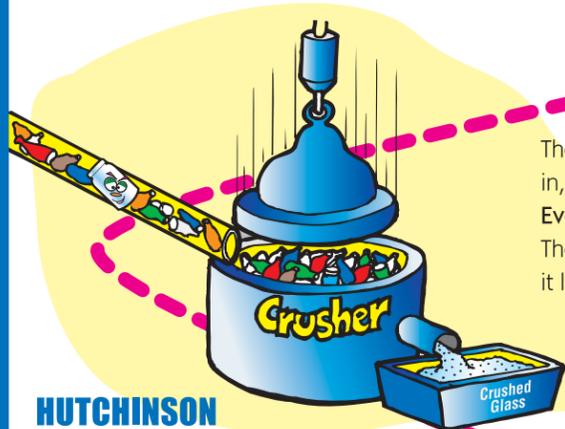
Is there an **APPLESAUCE JAR** in my **WALL?**



A recycling company, Stutzman Recycling, is starting a new project to help recycle glass in our state. Glass jars and bottles that are taken to recycling drop-off centers can be delivered to the factory in Hutchinson.

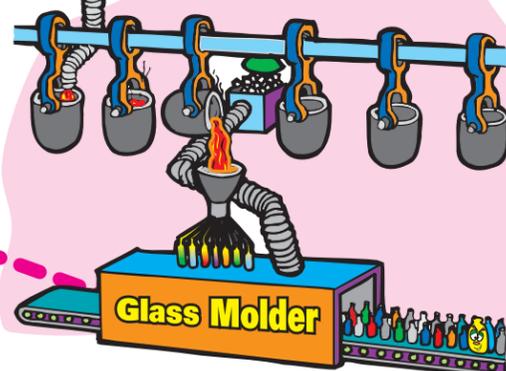


The workers there take the old glass, like the jar your applesauce came in, and put it into a special machine. The machine kind of looks like the Everlasting Gobstopper Machine in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. The machine cleans and grinds up the glass. When the glass comes out, it looks like sand you might find on a beach near an ocean or lake.

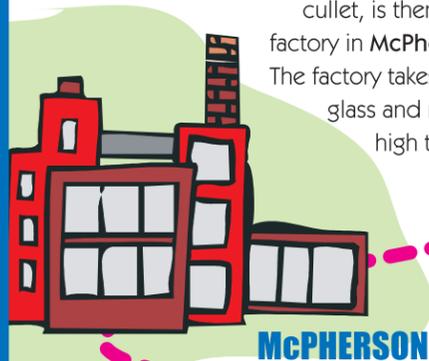


**HUTCHINSON**

This processed glass, called cullet, is then taken to a factory in McPherson, KS. The factory takes this recycled glass and melts it at very high temperatures.



Or, the processed glass can be melted and molded into new bottles and jars.



**MCPHERSON**

When the glass is melted, another machine turns it into fiberglass insulation. Insulation is a special material used in building houses, offices and stores. Construction workers put the fiberglass insulation into the walls and ceilings to help keep out the heat in the summer time and the cold in the winter.



So, there really might be an applesauce jar in your wall!



**What is Glass?**

Glass is made of soda ash, limestone and lots of sand. The mixture is put into a very hot furnace and when it melts, it turns into glass. Heating the furnace takes a lot of energy!

Glass can be recycled and used over and over again! This saves energy and natural resources! Recycled glass melts at a lower temperature than new materials, so it takes less energy to heat the furnace. In fact, most bottles and jars are made from recycled glass.

**ICAN** recycles and wants you to know **YOU** can, too!



**Fun Fact**

Glass can be recycled into jars, bottles, jewelry, dishes, drinking glasses, coffee mugs and many other items!

**Fun Fact**

Glass takes over 1,000,000 (1 million) years to decompose (breakdown and disappear) in our landfills or dumps!

**THAT'S A-MAZING!**

Wind your way through the maze and collect the glass containers. These items are all made from recycled glass.



**SEND IT IN!** Send in this form with your information and a photo of yourself and we will print everything we can. Tell us why recycling is important to you! **Mail in this page** to: Kansas Kids Can, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320, Topeka, KS 66612. Submissions of letters, photos, e-mails by students may be used in part or whole by KDHE, and should be approved by student's parents.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recycling is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Glass Recycling Quiz**

Test Yourself! How many things can you list that are made from recycled glass? Use the articles of **Kansas Kids Can** to help you. Give yourself 5 points for each answer. Answers on the back.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_